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PROGRAM

Morning Edition

STATION

WAMU-FM  
NPR Network

DATE

December 3, 1986

6:30 A.M.

CITY

Washington, D.C.

SUBJECT

Director Casey Changes Testimony

MARE ELIASSON: The Washington Post is reporting that money for the Contras was passed through the same Swiss bank account that the CIA used to funnel money to the rebels in Afghanistan. Besides the 10 to 30 million dollars from the Iranian arms sales, the account also contained deposits from the U.S. and Saudi Arabia. Those funds, estimated at about \$500 million, were meant to finance the Afghan rebels who are fighting against the Soviet-backed Afghan government.

Another contradiction between the accounts of events provided by Administration officials has emerged this week. Sources told NPR that CIA Director William Casey changed his testimony of last Friday to the Senate Intelligence Committee. He now admits he ordered CIA assistance in arms deliveries to Iran before the President said he approved such actions.

NPR's Jim Angle has more.

JIM ANGLE: Casey changed his account after his former deputy, John McMahon, directly contradicted Casey's testimony before the committee. The issue in question is U.S. participation in arms shipments from Israel to Iran before the President says he authorized such actions, which came in January 1986. Until now, Attorney General Meese has said that no U.S. official gave prior approval for earlier shipments, but that tacit U.S. approval may have come afterwards. But sources told NPR that Casey has now admitted personally ordering CIA assistance in arms shipments to Iran in 1985.

If the President did not approve those earlier actions, it means Casey acted on his own, without presidential authorization, and in violation of what was then Administration policy

against arms shipments to Iran.

Such actions are one of the things President Reagan said would be uncovered by the investigation.

Casey's admission is the first time one of the President's top national security advisers has implicated himself in activity that appears to conflict the law and Administration policy.